

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Sestak has spoken frequently of the “dignity of danger” that characterizes the careers of our nation’s first responders, including the hundreds of thousands of men and women who serve as volunteer firefighters. In order to honor their commitment to putting the safety of others before themselves, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA – 07) has cosponsored the Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteers Efforts (SERVE) Act. This legislation acknowledges the tremendous sacrifice of our nation’s volunteer firefighters, emergency medical service responders and other members of rescue services. H.R. 5700 provides a \$1,000 tax credit to those individuals who serve as volunteer fire fighters or members of EMS crews. — “Some 75 percent of our nation’s firefighters are volunteers, and I have had the honor of meeting hundreds of these dedicated men and women, as well as those who serve selflessly on EMS crews and for volunteer fire companies,” said Congressman Sestak. “This legislation properly honors their commitment to their communities.”

Providing a \$1000 tax credit can serve as an important recruitment tool for local groups to boost enrollment numbers. In addition, the credit can help offset the cost of the many calls and training sessions volunteers attend on their own time and at their own expense. Most importantly, it is a way for the Federal government to express the country's enormous gratitude for the sacrifices they voluntarily make each day.

This legislation has been endorsed by the National Volunteer Fire Council, a non-profit membership association representing more than 800,000 members of America's volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.